Reinstatement of terminated employees in EIL

2267. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have written to various PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for absorption of more then 300 contract employees/engineers terminated by Engineers India Limited (EIL); and

(b) if so, what is the response of each PSUs, PSU-wise, and by when all the terminated employees will be re-instated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The contract engineers, who were recruited for specified period to meet the short term requirement, have been released on completion of contract period/extended period or foreclosure of contract as per terms and conditions of their appointment.

On the advice of this Ministry, EIL had sent the bio-data of 297 ex-contract engineers to ten public sector undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of this Ministry and seven other concerned PSUs to consider appointment of these ex-contract engineers, provided they meet necessary qualifications. However, as per information available, none of these ex-contract engineers has yet been appointed.

Expenditure on IOC outlets

2268. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of IOC in the country, state-wise and abroad;

(b) the expenses incurred on setting up of these outlets;

(c) whether it is a fact that a major share of the profit earned by IOC is generated through its retail outlets in the country and abroad; and

(d) if so, the year-wise details of the total profit of IOC alongwith the separate details of the income generated through its retail outlets during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) had 8,034 retail outlets in the country as on 31.3.2003. IOC has no retail outlet outside India on its own. However, IOC is carrying out retail operations in Sri Lanka through its subsidiary company *viz* M/s Lanka IOC Pvt. Ltd. (formed during 2002-2003). 114 retail outlets are being operated in Sri Lanka by the subsidiary company.

(b) Expenditure on setting up of a retail outlet varies from outlet to outlet, depending on various factors like the cost of land, the facilities to be attached to the outlet etc. The cumulative capital expenditure incurred by IOC for setting up of retail outlets was Rs. 2,430.45 crore as on 31.3.2003.

(c) and (d) The profits after tax earned by the IOC during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Profit earned (Rupees in crore)
2000-01	2,720
2001-02	2,885
2002-03	6,115

The IOC has no system for arriving at the profit earned through retail outlets separately.

Penalties for diversion of LPG cylinders

2269. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1736 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th August, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the malpractice of diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purpose in metropolitan cities continues unabated as penal provision for such misuse is not a deterrent;